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THE VISITING NURSE DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
HARRIET FULMER

SOCIAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

ON the evening of March 14th, a large audience representing the social activities to which the services of the trained nurse have been directed, gathered at the Henry Street Settlement to listen to a most interesting and stimulating recital of the extension work of the Massachusetts General Hospital, inaugurated by Dr. Richard Cabot and under the supervision of Miss Ida Cannon, a trained nurse. The District Nursing Associations which were represented at the meeting include the following:

Department of Health Nurses; School Nurses; Presbyterian Hospital Visiting Nurses of Brooklyn; Henry Street Settlement Staff of Visiting Nurses; Social Service Workers in New York City; Bellevue Hospital, Miss Wadley and Assistant; Presbyterian Hospital, Miss Mounce; Mt. Sinai Hospital, Miss Johnson; New York Hospital, Miss Jameson; Vanderbilt Clinic, Dr. Leader; Cornell Clinic, Dr. Dyer; Westinghouse Lamp Co., Dr. Blaustein; Wanamaker's Store, Miss Duncan and Assistant; Vantine's Store, Miss Horton; Abraham and Straus' Store, Miss Wood and Miss Heller.

Miss Cannon told of the origin of the Social Service in the Out-patient Department of the Massachusetts General Hospital. The work was started in October, 1905, by Dr. Richard C. Cabot, who was convinced that the physician's efforts in the big clinics should be supplemented by those of the social worker. The work has grown rapidly until now there is a staff of six paid workers and sixteen volunteers.

She outlined the various divisions of the work. They were as follows: tuberculosis, with two classes for home treatment; hygiene, with individual and home instruction, cases sent to convalescent homes; work for psycho-neurotics, with occupation class; sex problems with unmarried pregnant girls; and ward work with cases needing friendly offices and those soon to be discharged. All cases that can be well cared for by existing agencies are referred to them.

Researches into the social aspects of varicose ulcers and the condi-

tion of ex-sanatoria tuberculosis cases are being carried on. The object throughout is to make the hospital treatment effective.

Miss Cannon felt that such social work offered a large, new field of activity for which nurses ought to prepare themselves; that our present training schools are too specialized for preparation for Social Service; and that it would be well if nurses might have the opportunity for social training either through elective or post-graduate work.

THE Instructive District Nursing Association, Troy, New York, was incorporated February 19, 1908, and the first annual meeting was held February 28, 1908. The constitution was adopted and elections were held for officers, a board of managers and an advisory board. The date of meetings is the last Friday of each month. The association expects to begin work as soon as the services of a qualified, graduate nurse can be secured. It is proposed to begin with one nurse whose support will cost about eight hundred dollars annually, and to increase the number of nurses as the means at hand will permit. Members pay an annual fee of two dollars. The president of the association is Mr. Robert Cluett.

THE Woman's Club of Honolulu, Hawaii, will pay twelve hundred dollars a year for a visiting nurse of experience and ability to take charge of special tuberculosis work. For particulars apply to the editor of this department, Miss Fulmer, 79 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

REQUESTS have come from several sources for papers on the following: "How to Form a Visiting Nurse Association," "Story of a Day's Work Done by a Special Tuberculosis Nurse." The editor will be glad to have these two short papers by June 1st.

THE Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago receives an average of ten letters a day in reference to various phases of visiting nurse work. Unintentionally it has grown into a bureau of information on the subject. Every visiting nurse is asked to send to Chicago all printed matter pertaining to her work, and the addresses of all societies and individuals engaged in any phase of house to house nursing. A card catalogue of all associations is being collected, and the editor will be very grateful for assistance in making this information up to date and complete.

WE are all looking forward to the publication of Miss Waters' book on Visiting Nursing.